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February 23, 1981

Mr. John E. Bacon
Information and Privacy
Coordinator
Central Intelligence Agency
Washington, D.C. 20505

Dear Mr. Bacon:

This is in response to your letter concerning my Freedom of Information Act request about CIA activities relating to the training of Tibetans in the late 1950s and early 1960s.

On or about Dec. 7, 1961, at Peterson Field, Colorado Springs, several civilians were temporarily detained after observing Tibetans boarding a U.S. Air Force cargo aircraft. The Tibetans were being trained by the CIA, and were to return to Tibet to engage in guerilla warfare against occupying Chinese forces.

Several news articles resulted from the incident at Peterson field, some of which appeared in the Colorado-Springs Gazette, the Denver Post, the Rocky Mountain News, and the New York Times. Since this was an extremely sensitive project, I assume the CIA did not want any publicity about it, and that at least some memoranda were generated by the incident and resulting publicity. I would be interested in obtaining copies of memos, letters, minutes of meetings, etc., dealing with the publicity this incident received, and with any attempt by the CIA to stop, delay, or influence publication of these articles.

You asked in your letter if I was also seeking "articles possibly written by the CIA for these newspapers. . . ." If any articles were written by the CIA about this incident, or about the training of Tibetans, then I would be interested in those articles.

As I indicated in my previous letter, I believe the release of this information (actions by the Central Intelligence Agency relative to proposed or actual publicity resulting from the incident detailed above) would be of benefit to the general public. There has been both Congressional and judicial concern about the release of sensitive national security information by the news media, and I believe it would benefit the public to know what actions the government has taken or contemplated with regards to the unauthorized disclosure of information of this type. I, therefore, request that the copy and search fees incurred by this search be waived.

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If further clarification of the nature of the information is needed, I will be happy to call you at your convenience to discuss particulars of this request.

Sincerely,



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